

Background Check System (BCS) User Guide: Online Background Check Authorization Form

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About This Manual

Welcome to the Online Background Check Authorization Form user guide. This user guide will help you understand the steps to take when completing the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Online Background Check Authorization Form.

Please note, the Online Background Check Authorization Form (and therefore this manual) are subject to Alteration. Modifications/updates to the guide may result from changes in state or federal policies and procedures, system upgrades, or other factors.

The Online Background Check Authorization Form was built for DSHS customers who are being requested to complete a background check. If you have questions, BCCU can be contacted at BCCUinquiry@dshs.wa.gov.

Accessing the Online Background Check Authorization Form

Using the Google Chrome internet web browser, go to the following link:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/bcs/>

This will bring up the online authorization form where you can start filling in all the required information.

Things to Keep in Mind

1. You will be providing personal information on this form and the information will be saved to a secure database for 90 days.
2. You will sign this form electronically.
3. You should reference your court documentation or charging papers for any crimes you self-disclose. For questions regarding how/what to self-disclose, the Background Check Central Unit (BCCU) cannot provide legal advice. Please seek an attorney or the courthouse where the offenses occurred.
4. You cannot start filling in the form and then save it to come back to later. You must complete the form in one sitting.
5. Upon completing the form, this does not automatically submit the background check to the Background Check Central Unit (BCCU). You will need to provide your confirmation number to the requesting entity to submit the background check.

Features of the Online Background Check Authorization Form

Throughout the form, there is a built-in help feature. Most questions can be easily answered by clicking on the question marks in each field as you are making your way through the form.

Self-Disclosure - Conviction Information ?

Have you ever been convicted of any crime? (11a) *Required*
☒ Yes ☐ No

Occurred in Washington State? ? *Required*
☒ Yes ☐ No

Select a crime convicted of from the list or select **CRIME NOT IN LIST to enter a different crime.** ? *Required*

Other Crime Information ? *Required*

Conviction Date ? *Required*
MM/DD/YYYY

Description ?

+ New Convicted Crime ?

Next

Clicking on these little question marks opens up a help window with text and guidance on what to provide for that field.

Required fields are indicated throughout the form with the word **required** on the right hand side. The system will remind you if you have not filled out a required field and will not let you continue until you do.

Print your name as it is listed on your driver's license or other photo ID.
First ? *Required*

This field is required

Using the Online Background Check Authorization Form

You will use this [form](#) to collect your personal information and then provide to the DSHS program, licensed, or contracted entity that is requesting your background check and they will initiate a background check for employment, licensing and contracting purposes through their Background Check System (BCS) account.

You must complete all required fields. Please review all of your information for accuracy before saving your form.

Please note, BCCU does not conduct background checks on persons under the age of eight (8) years old. If the applicant is under the age of 8, the following error message will be received and the request will be denied:

The screenshot shows a portion of the online form. It includes input fields for 'Middle', 'Last', and 'Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)'. The 'Last' and 'Date of Birth' fields are marked as 'Required'. A red error message is displayed: 'DSHS does not conduct background checks for persons under eight (8) years old.' Below this message, the date '11/01/2015' is entered in the 'Date of Birth' field. At the bottom, there is a field for 'Have you used any other first, middle, or last names?' which is also marked as 'Required'.

If you provide your personal email address while completing the form, the system will automatically email you a copy of your confirmation code.

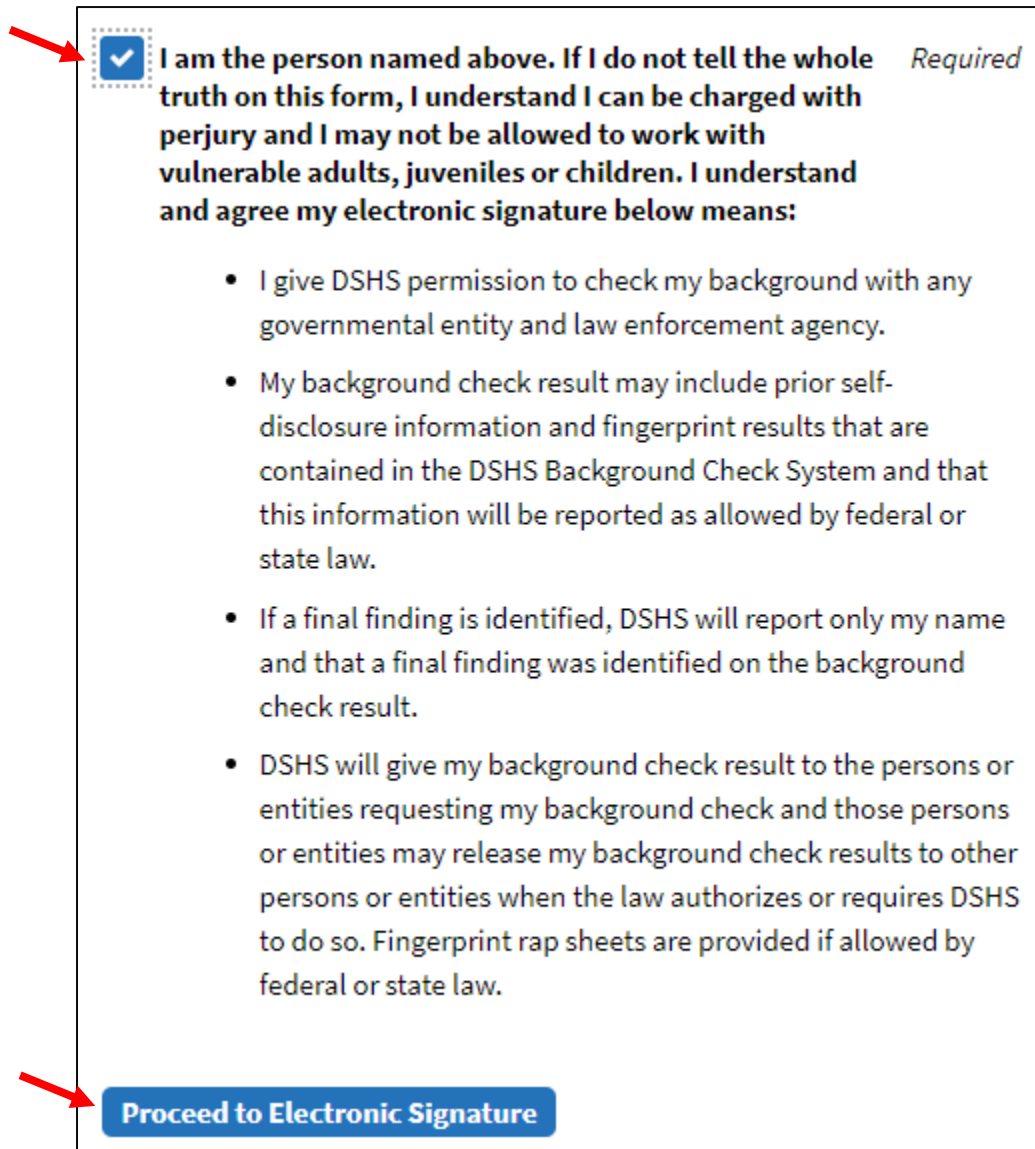
If you have criminal history, BCCU recommends having all charging, arrest, or court papers on hand to assist you in answering the self-disclosure questions that require crime dates and official crime names.

There is a drop down list provided for common Washington state crimes. Your crime may not be listed on the drop down menu. For those crimes not listed, please follow the instructions regarding how to add your own crime and describe what occurred.

The screenshot shows the 'Self-Disclosure - Conviction Information' section of the form. It includes a 'Have you ever been convicted of a crime?' question with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons. Below this is a 'State' dropdown menu. A message box states: 'This drop down list does not include all crimes. Using the dropdown list, select the name of the crime/conviction. If the crime name is not in the list, select "CRIME NOT IN LIST". Additional fields will open up for you to manually enter your crime/conviction name etc.' Below the message box is a 'Select a crime convicted of from the list or select CRIME NOT IN LIST' dropdown menu. To the right of this dropdown is a 'Required' label. Below the dropdown menu are fields for 'Name', 'Select Degree', 'Other Crime Information', and 'Conviction Date', each with a 'Required' label. The 'Conviction Date' field has a placeholder 'MM/DD/YYYY'.

I'm done filling out the form. Now what?

When you are done completing the form and you have reviewed all your information, check the box indicating that you have provided truthful information to the best of your ability, and click the button to electronically sign your form.

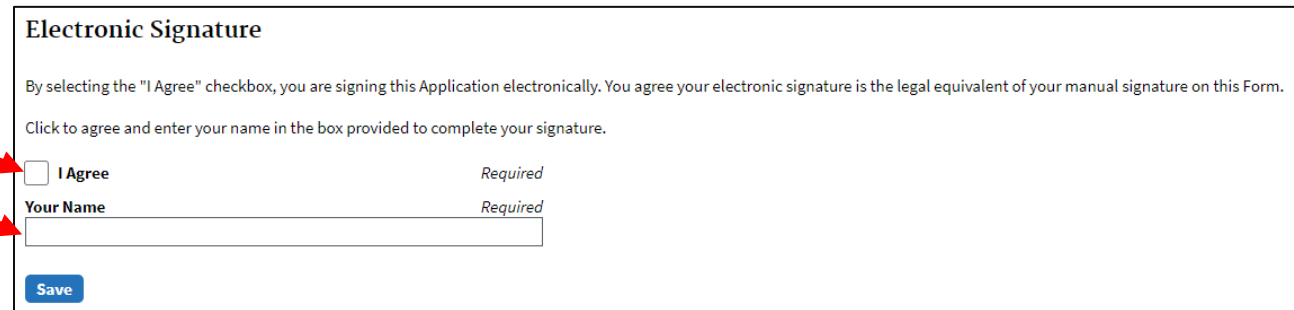


☒ **I am the person named above. If I do not tell the whole truth on this form, I understand I can be charged with perjury and I may not be allowed to work with vulnerable adults, juveniles or children. I understand and agree my electronic signature below means:** *Required*

- I give DSHS permission to check my background with any governmental entity and law enforcement agency.
- My background check result may include prior self-disclosure information and fingerprint results that are contained in the DSHS Background Check System and that this information will be reported as allowed by federal or state law.
- If a final finding is identified, DSHS will report only my name and that a final finding was identified on the background check result.
- DSHS will give my background check result to the persons or entities requesting my background check and those persons or entities may release my background check results to other persons or entities when the law authorizes or requires DSHS to do so. Fingerprint rap sheets are provided if allowed by federal or state law.

Proceed to Electronic Signature

Check the box next to ***I agree*** attesting that the name typed in the field is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this form and then click ***Save***.



Electronic Signature

By selecting the "I Agree" checkbox, you are signing this Application electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this Form.

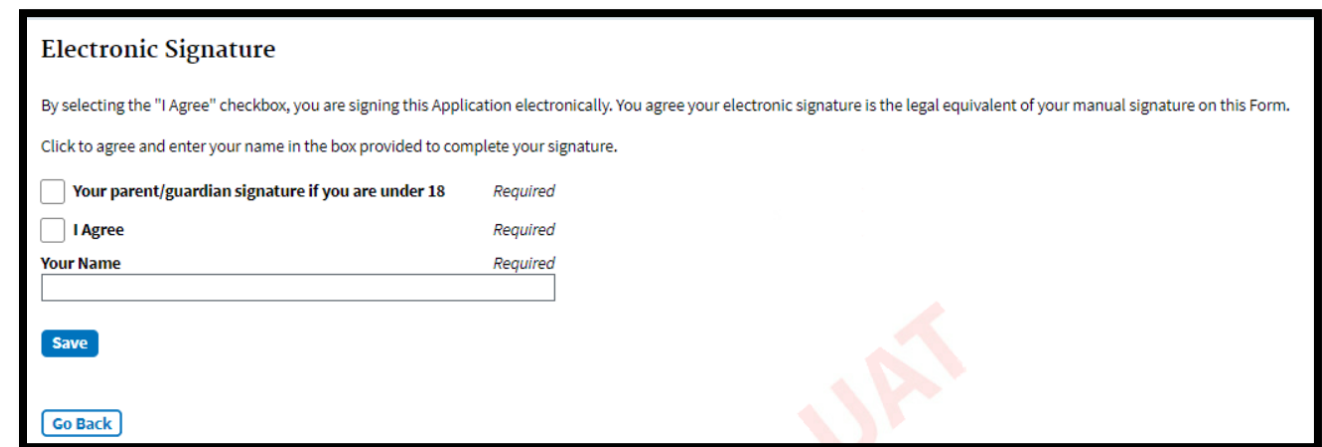
Click to agree and enter your name in the box provided to complete your signature.

☐ **I Agree** *Required*

Your Name *Required*

[Save](#)

If you are a parent or guardian signing the form on behalf of the minor applicant, Check the box next to ***Your parent/guardian signature if you are under 18*** and ***I agree*** attesting that the name typed in the field is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this form and click ***Save***.



Electronic Signature

By selecting the "I Agree" checkbox, you are signing this Application electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this Form.

Click to agree and enter your name in the box provided to complete your signature.

☐ **Your parent/guardian signature if you are under 18** *Required*

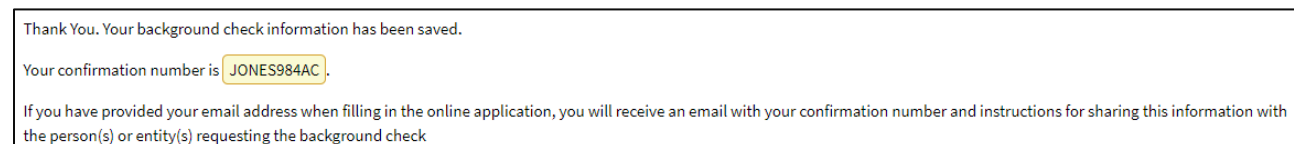
☐ **I Agree** *Required*

Your Name *Required*

[Save](#)

[Go Back](#)

You then will get a notification that your background check form has been saved and the system will generate a 10-character code confirmation number.



Thank You. Your background check information has been saved.

Your confirmation number is **JONES984AC**.

If you have provided your email address when filling in the online application, you will receive an email with your confirmation number and instructions for sharing this information with the person(s) or entity(s) requesting the background check

You will see additional field(s) that will allow you to email the confirmation number to the up to three different email addresses.

You may also email your confirmation code to the person(s) or entity(s) who requested the background check. Please enter up to three (3) email addresses below.

Email Address ?

Email Address ?

[Remove This Email Address](#)

Email Address ?

You also will be able to print and save a copy of your form by clicking the ***Print & Save Form*** button. This will open the document in a separate tab of your browser or generate a PDF document that appears down at the bottom of your screen.

You may print or save a copy of your completed Background Authorization form:

- Click the "print/save" button below to open a PDF of the Background Authorization Form
- Print or save the form for your records.

Reminder: You have provided sensitive data above. Please be careful where you save this information and how you handle the information you are about to print and/or save.

[Print & Save Form](#)

What happens if I notice I made a mistake in the form after I save it?

Once the form is saved you cannot go back in and make changes.

If you have not provided the requesting entity with your confirmation number, go back to the Online Background Check Authorization Form website and fill it out again. This will generate a new confirmation code with your correct information. Provide the updated confirmation code to the requesting DSHS entity.

If you have already provided the requesting entity with the confirmation number for your form with the mistake, reach out to the entity and notify them there was an error on the form. They may ask you to complete the online form again to generate a new confirmation code.

How do I find out the status of my background check request?

To find out the status of your background check, please contact the requesting entity.

Who do I call if I need help?

If you need additional assistance while you are filling out the form, please contact BCCU by calling (360) 902-0299 or emailing bccuinquiry@dshs.wa.gov